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## Book Reviews.

**The Twelve Minor Prophets.** Expounded by Dr. C. VON ORELLI, of the University of Basel. Translated by Rev. J. S. BANKS, of Headingley College, Leeds. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark; New York: Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons. Pages vii and 405. Price, \$3.00.

This is the age of commentaries. The crop has been, and is, so abundant that no one beside the specialist is able to decide on the respective merits of all. They are critical, expository, devotional and . . . *mixed*. They are radical, moderate, conservative, and traditional. But the new method of issuing series prepared by many scholars and put out under one editorial management has very decided advantages. 1) It assigns Scripture books to specialists, and secures first-class work. 2) It brings the completion of the publication within a reasonable limit of time. 3) It presents the best thought of a single period of time, instead of gathering up the varying views of several years.

Germany has of late years issued several series of Commentaries on the Bible, each from its own point of view. The volume before us is one of a moderately conservative series, issued under the editorial care of Professors Zöckler and Strack. A few of the number have put on an English dress. Professor Orelli's Prophecies of Isaiah, and Prophecies of Jeremiah have achieved that distinction. The present volume also is deserving of its place.

The author, after a brief introduction, treats the books in their usual order in the Hebrew Bible. His method is very simple and plain. In a heavily leaded introduction he discusses briefly the author, time, and place of composition, with characteristics, etc., as each book demands. Then follows at the top of the page a new translation—these occupying about one-third of the space—and on the lower two-thirds the critical and exegetical notes. At the close of each such translation and critical notes, sometimes of sections of a book, sometimes of a book—the reader finds the *exposition*. The author gives, in popular form, the story as brought out in the translation.

The positions taken by Professor Orelli are by no means startling. The disputed books are located as follows: Joel is put in the reign of Jehoshaphat, second successor of Jehoram, in the first half of his forty years' reign, "Obadiah's oracle was occasioned by the conquest of Jerusalem under Jehoram, and arose soon after that event" (p. 158). Jonah was an historical character, but the events here described were probably written after his day—possibly post-exile. "The fish-miracle is not the product of his [the writer's] fancy. Whether we regard it as a historical fact or assign it to legend, it was certainly matter of tradition" (p. 168). Zechariah is assigned to three

periods: Chapters one to eight to Zechariah himself, chapters nine to eleven to a later contemporary of Hosea, chapters twelve to fourteen to a contemporary of Jeremiah. Common sense and matured opinion characterize his discussions, translations, notes, and expositions. There are, of course, some views peculiar to the author which would not command universal approval, but on the whole there is a breadth of view, a candidness of expression, and a devotional spirit such as win the best attention of the reader.

The translation from the German is also subject to some criticism. It is impossible in every case to carry over the full thought of the German into good grammatical English, but some short expressions and idioms ought to be done into their English idioms, and complicated sentences should be broken up into readable form. On page 3 the translator makes the author say: "I have a college course on Hosea to Jonah by Fr. Delitzsch," where *collegium* is entirely mistranslated; on page 170 the author is giving Kleinert's view of Jonah's teaching, and adds a reference *in loco*; the translator gives us: "See the details there, p. 168"; "The often attempted proof" (p. 308), etc. These distract the attention of an English reader, though do not materially lessen the value of the work. This hand-book of the Minor Prophets will take its place among the best.

PRICE.

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**Outline Studies in the Books of the Old Testament.** By W. G. MOOREHEAD, D.D., Professor of Old Testament Exegesis in the United Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Xenia, O. Chicago and New York: Fleming H. Revell Co., 12mo. Pp. 363. Price, \$1.50.

This is a devotional survey of the Old Testament Books. The author states in the preface that it is "neither critical nor expository." The outline studies are intended to be no more than helps in the reading of the Scriptures: and "are designed for beginners in Bible study." Their treatment exhibits a large acquaintance with the older literature given to the devotional discussion of the books of the Old Testament. Professor Moorehead follows strictly in conservative lines, and gives the pith and core of each book in the order in which they occur in our English Bible. There is an abundance of room for just such a book as this among the less critical and the more devotional reader.

He treats of the author, time and place of composition, the analysis quite in detail, and then of several of the most important themes of each book. He shows a large amount of good judgment in his selection and discussion of topics, and gives the reader plenty of references for verifying his statements. His views of types and symbols will not be acceptable to some scholars, but they are not to be cast aside without consideration. On the whole, the outlines will prove to be very valuable to the average Bible student, and full of suggestion to the more mature and thoughtful reader.

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